

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Advent, Saturday of 1<sup>st</sup> week

Reading: Lk.1,26-38

v.29a *"Mary was greatly troubled at his words."*

Mary was troubled by the greeting she received from the angel Gabriel, because it got her wondering about what it would mean for her (someone who did not think herself worthy of such a greeting, even less that she would be able to prove to be so), what would come next, what God was up to in her life. She felt this keenly because she was a woman of faith and knew that God's favour towards her did not mean success and plain sailing for her own plans, but rather a claim on her to become part of God's plan, and because she was ready to submit.

Indeed, God's favour towards her and her readiness to submit meant she was to have a most honoured place in the story. But it wasn't one that was not to have its share of pain and sorrow. Yet the place she was to have in the story of the coming of the Saviour played a major part in that coming.

Through Jesus Christ, the Saviour, God's favour (grace!) is coming to all, and all as a consequence of receiving him in submission are given a place in the story of salvation, become part of his kingdom *"which will never end"*.

However troubling the grace of God may be perceived to be in respect to our own plans and ideas, because of its claim on us to become a part of God's plan, it does equip us for that part and assures us that God is up to something exceedingly good in accordance with his will and purpose. Let us look out for God's grace and expect to find it in Christ Jesus.